

HB 500 -- EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL ALIENS

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on International Trade and Immigration by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, an employer receiving a state-administered or subsidized tax credit, tax abatement, or loan and found to be negligently employing an illegal alien will be ineligible for any state-administered or subsidized tax credit, tax abatement, or loan for a period of five years; however, the director of the agency administering the tax credit, tax abatement, or loan may waive the penalty for a first-time offender. This bill removes the waiver option.

The bill also requires any employer convicted of knowingly accepting any state-administered or subsidized tax credit, tax abatement, or loan while employing illegal aliens to repay the amount of the tax credit, tax abatement, or loan within 60 days of the conviction. If a convicted employer does not repay the amount due within the required 60 days, the Attorney General may seek an injunction against the employer's business operations until the amount is repaid.

When signing a contract for work, an employer receiving a state-administered or subsidized tax credit, tax abatement, or loan must execute a surety bond in the amount of the tax credit, tax abatement, or loan to secure the required repayment in the event he or she violates the provisions of the bill.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the current fine is an insufficient disincentive for employers receiving state-administered or subsidized tax credits, tax abatements, or loans who are found to be employing illegal aliens.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Robert Lowry, City of O'Fallon; and Missourians Against Illegal Immigration.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.