

## HB 64 -- PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill allows an employer or labor organization to obtain contributions for a candidate, campaign committee, continuing committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of electioneering communications on an automatic basis through a payroll deduction only if the employee or organization member consents to the contribution each year in writing. These provisions do not apply to voluntary member-owned trade associations operating only in this state or to first responders. These provisions must not be interpreted as denying a labor organization the right to receive and use dues for any legal purpose.

The bill also removes a duplicative section regarding the discrimination of an employee by reason of his political beliefs or opinions and the coercion or bribery of an employee regarding voting and political contributions.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that it is important to protect union members' wages by ensuring that they are not forced to support political candidates out of pocket and against their will.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Burlison and Fitzpatrick; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Associated Industries of Missouri; United for Missouri; and Americans for Prosperity;

OPPONENTS: Opponents say that under current law the union cannot take money from an employee or member without permission. This is just another administrative burden put onto unions from Jefferson City.

Testifying in opposition to the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers District 11; Service Employees International Union MO/KS State Council; Missouri-Kansas Conference of Teamsters; Missouri National Education Association; American Federation of Teachers; United Transportation Union; Ken Menges, Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers; Dave Politte, UFCW Local 655; American Federation of Teachers St. Louis Local 420; and Patrick White, Gasworkers Local 11-6, Missouri State Labor Utility Conference.