

HB 409 -- PREVAILING WAGES IN THIRD CLASSIFICATION COUNTIES

SPONSOR: Love

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

This bill specifies that the prevailing hourly rate of wages in third classification counties will be the median hourly estimated wage for the construction and extraction occupational code most closely resembling the occupational title as published in the latest United States Bureau of Labor Statistics by Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Area Occupational Employment Wage Estimate or, if the rate cannot be determined under that method, the prevailing hourly rate of wages will be the median hourly wage estimate for occupational code 47-0000 in the construction and extraction occupational code published in the latest United States Bureau of Labor Statistics publication.

PROponents: Supporters say that the bill will allow smaller counties to "get more bang for the buck" on their public works projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Love; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPponents: Those who oppose the bill say that it will make it easier for non-local contractors to come into an area and underbid the locals. There will be no assurances that the winning lowest bidder employs qualified, skilled workers.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri State Building Trades; Associated General Contractors of St. Louis; United Steelworkers District 11; Missouri AFL-CIO; SMACNA St. Louis; Plumbing Industry Council; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades; Painters' District Council #2 IUPAT; Painters' District Council #3 IUPAT; United Transportation Union; Ken Menges, Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers; Mechanical Contractors Association - Eastern Missouri Inc.; and Mechanical Contractors Association of Kansas City.