

HB 409 -- PREVAILING WAGES (Love)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety

This bill revises the definition of "construction" as it relates to prevailing wages on public works projects by removing improvements, alterations, major repairs, or maintenance. Currently, it includes construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, alteration, painting and decorating, or major repair.

The bill also revises the definition of "maintenance work" to include repairs that restore existing facilities to a previous state or condition or improve the utility or enhance the appearance of an existing facility provided that the size, type, or extent of the existing facility is not changed. Maintenance work will not include "major repairs" that is defined as any work that exceeds the replacement cost of existing facilities.

The bill also changes the way the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations determines the prevailing hourly rate of wages on public work projects.

For the City of St. Louis and the counties of Cass, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, and St. Louis, the prevailing hourly rate of wages will continue to be determined by consideration of the applicable wage rates established by collective bargaining agreements, if any, and the rates paid generally within those counties and city. The applicable wage rates paid by members of a tax-exempt trade organization as defined in the bill also can be considered.

For all other counties, the prevailing hourly rate of wages will be the state average weekly wage as determined by the department.