

HCS HB 828 -- PREVAILING WAGES

SPONSOR: Fisher

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 7 to 3.

This substitute revises the definition of "construction" as it relates to the provisions regarding prevailing wages on public works projects to include new construction, enlargement, or major alteration. Currently, it includes construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, alteration, painting and decorating, or major repair.

The substitute also abrogates the ruling in Utility Service Co., Inc. v. the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission of Missouri.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is designed to modify a judicial ruling that makes repainting subject to prevailing wage requirements which increases costs for local communities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fisher; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Associated Industries of Missouri; Patrick Bonnot, Missouri Public Utility Alliance; Missouri Municipal League; Missouri Association of Counties; Missouri Council of School Administrators; and Missouri School Boards Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the language in the bill results in greater confusion and does not resolve potential judicial interpretation issues.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City; Associated General Contractors of St. Louis; United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562; Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity; David Cook, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655; United Steelworkers District 11; Adam McBride, Eastern and Western Councils of Laborers International Union of North America; and Gary Otten, Painters District Council 2.