

HCS SS SB 202 -- PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SPONSOR: Crowell (Schoeller)

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

This substitute allows an employer or labor organization to obtain a political contribution through a payroll deduction only if the employee or member affirmatively consents to the contribution in writing annually. This provision will not apply to voluntary member-owned trade associations wholly operating in Missouri or first responders covered under Section 192.800, RSMo. No labor union can be denied the right to receive or use dues for any legal purpose.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that by implementing an "opt-in" system as opposed to an "opt-out" system, a worker will have more freedom in choosing whether to fund political activities through a payroll deduction.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schoeller for Senator Crowell; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Associated Industries of Missouri; and Associated Builders and Contractors.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is simply designed to make it more difficult for unions to operate and will not provide any additional freedom to workers that they do not already possess.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers District 11; Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity; Carpenters' District Council of Kansas City; United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562; Service Employees International Union MO/KS State Council; Missouri National Education Association; AFT Missouri; Pat White, Utility Workers of Missouri; and A.J. Villegas, Communications Workers of America.