

HB 569 -- LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 9 to 3.

This bill specifies that, except in instances when these provisions conflict with or are preempted by federal law, a person as a condition or continuation of employment cannot be required to:

- (1) Become or refrain from becoming a member of a labor organization;
- (2) Pay dues, fees, assessments, or other charges to a labor organization; or
- (3) Pay to any charity or third party any equivalent amount in lieu of dues, fees, assessments, or other charges required of a member of a labor organization.

Any agreement, understanding, or practice between a labor organization and an employer that violates the rights of employees as guaranteed under these provisions will be unlawful, null and void, and of no legal effect.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that right-to-work laws encourage job growth because businesses strongly take this into consideration when deciding whether to locate in or relocate to Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant; National Federation Of Independent Business; Ron Staggs; Heart Of America Chapter, Associated Builders And Contractors; Americans For Prosperity Mo; James Coyne; Missouri Alliance For Freedom; Jay Atkins, Missouri Chamber Of Commerce; Associated Industries Of Missouri; and Kimberly Inman, Missouri Association Of Manufacturers.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that non-union members share the benefits negotiated by unions, and it is fair to make the non-union members pay a fee for the benefits. Right-to-work laws weaken unions and takes away the best job security that a worker has with a union contract. Many businesses are against right-to-work laws because they know that unions train their members, resulting in a highly skilled and qualified labor force.

Testifying against the bill were Allen Dillingham, Builder's Association; United Transportation Union; Mechanical Contractors Association-Eastern Missouri; Missouri Laborers' Legislative

Committee; United Steelworkers District 11; Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen; SEIU (Service Employees Intl. Union) Mo/Ks State Council; Aft St. Louis Local 420; Bruce Wayne Holt; Michele Scott-Huffman, Missouri National Education Association; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562; Rev. Emmett Baker, Jr., St. Louis Clergy Coalition; Sherrie M. Saunders; Rev. Martin Rafanan, Missouri Jobs With Justice; Carpenters' District Council Of Greater St. Louis And Vicinity; Thomas G. Heeger, Erectors & Riggers Assoc.; Daniel Wienstroer, Painting And Decorating Foundation; Timothy J. Wies, Tj Wies Contracting, Inc.; Plumbing Industry Council; Missouri Afl-Cio; BRK Electric; and Ibew1/St. Louis Neca.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they are available to answer any questions or to clarify misunderstandings about federal labor law.

Testifying on the bill was Stanley Greer, National Institute For Labor Relations Research.