

HB 81 -- WORKER'S COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Employment Security by a vote of 7 to 5.

Currently, only construction industry employers are deemed employers for workers' compensation if they have one or more employees; all other non-construction industry employers are not deemed employers for workers' compensation purposes unless they have five or more employees.

This bill adds any person or corporation in the construction industry who erects, demolishes, alters, or repairs improvements to the definition of "employer" as it relates to the Workers' Compensation Law.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will save government and industry money and will create fairness by subjecting all businesses to the same rule.

Testifying for the bill was Representative McGaugh.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the construction industry is inherently more dangerous and is one reason that workers' compensation was enacted. Furthermore, it will cause more contractors to be sued in civil court.

Testifying against the bill were United Steelworkers District 11 and Missouri AFL-CIO.

This bill is the same as HB 1836 (2016) and HCS HB 337 (2015).