

HB 104 -- PREVAILING WAGE

SPONSOR: Love

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 7 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 2.

This bill repeals Missouri's prevailing wage law. Currently, contractors and subcontractors working on public works projects are required to pay employees the prevailing wage for the particular locality in which the project is being completed. This bill changes the law to require contractors and subcontractors to pay employees state or federal minimum wage, whichever is higher. Contractors and subcontractors would be permitted to pay higher than the minimum wage if they chose, but that would not be a requirement.

This bill is the same as HB 1931 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that prevailing wage requirements forestall or cancel numerous public works projects that need to be completed, but become too expensive. Prevailing wage forces rural communities to waste their relatively few tax dollars on public works projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Love; Marlon Collins, Cedar County; Kenneth McKenzie, Oregon County Ambulance District; Missouri Century Foundation; Greene County Commission; Missouri State University; Missouri Farm Bureau; City of Nevada; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Missouri School Board Association; Missouri Municipal League; and Frank Foster, EMS Legal Services.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that prevailing wage laws secure public works projects against out-of-state contractors, and that the prevailing wage in rural communities would fall to more manageable levels if local contractors in those areas would simply provide their wage information to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Testifying against the bill were Alise Martiny, Kansas City Building Trades Council; St. Louis NECA; Edward Twehouse, Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Roofers Local #20; Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City; Plumbing Industry Council; Sheet Metal, Air Conditioning Contractors National Association St. Louis; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors; Site Improvement Association; J.E. Dunn; Walter Bazan, American Subcontractors Association; Louie W.

Brinkoetter Jr; David C. Hudson, Plumbers And Gas Fitters; Bob Looman, Mechanical Contractors Association; Dennis Corrigan, Corrigan Company Mechanical; and Dennis Palmer, Coastal Electric.